

KITSY AMRHEIN HOBIE FLEET 159, SPRINGFIELD, IL, DIVISION 10, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 1996

Division 10 is proud to nominate Kitsy Amrhein for the North American Hobie Class Association Sportsperson of the Year Award. Kitsy possesses the characteristics that any sporting organization desires. She is a fierce and successful competitor, enjoys and creates fun within the sport, gives a part of herself back to the sport, and contributes to the organization itself.

Kitsy has competed successfully in three Women's Continental events within the past two years. These include: the Hobie 18 Nationals in Mexico in September 1994 where she placed first, the Hobie 16 Nationals in Corpus Christi in October 1994, and the Hobie 18 Nationals in Iowa in July 1995— she placed second there. Kitsy also competed in the Hobie 16 Women's Worlds in May of 1995, and is currently playing a major role in organizing and promoting the Hobie 18 Women's Continentals, scheduled for September 1996. Reaching beyond the traditional, Kitsy's promo-

tional campaign for the Women's Continentals has included professional sailing periodicals. She is constantly on the road attending NAHCA events and her reputation in and out of Division 10 is one of winning with style or losing with grace.

Kitsy enjoys and creates fun within the sport. The regattas she organizes or helps to run are known for providing racers with lots of value for their entrance fee. Her registration "goody bags" are legendary in (and probably outside) Division 10, and her regatta activities are not limited to racing alone.

The Honest Abe Regatta (also known as Honest Abe's Hometown HobieFest), of 1996 included a banquet theme of the "Lets Make a Deal" game show. Over the course of a weekend, when not helping with a regatta, it's quite common to find a crowd huddled around Kitsy listening to sailing or other humorous yarns she brings to every occasion.

Although a proven winner, Kitsy takes the time to encourage the development of new racers. She crews for new skippers and tutors new crews. In addition to helping new sailors within Division 10, Kitsy has served as an on-the-water safety officer at the Special Olympics in Connecticut in July of 1995.

Kitsy understands the importance of supporting the organizational aspects of our sport. She regularly provides articles for Division 10 publications and for the NAHCA Newsletter and can be counted on to attend important organizational meetings. She even attended the Sail Expo in New Jersey to represent the Hobie Class during the off-season.

Kitsy Amrhein, simply put, is just a great person to have representing the sport of sailing. She has cultivated her own sailing network throughout the United States and Canada, and Division 10 is proud to call her our very own, "Sportsperson of the Year!"